

REMARKS

The preliminary amendment adds claims that, in part, are analogous to claims 12 and 13 in the parent case, U.S. Application No. 09/221,647. To facilitate prosecution of claims presented in the preliminary amendment, the following explanation is provided to explain why new claim 23 is patentable over the art cited in the parent application.

New claim 23 recites:

storing first data that associates a plurality of code conversion rules with a field defined by an application;
receiving an application code associated with said field;
selecting, based on said first data, **a single code conversion rule** from said plurality of code conversion rules; and
converting said application code based on said single code conversion rule into a plurality of other codes.

Claim 23 requires that a field be associated with many conversion rules, and that one of them be selected and applied to the application code to generate multiple other codes.

In the last Office Action for the parent case, the Examiner rejected Claim 23 as obvious based on U.S. Patent No. 5,392,390 ("Crozier"). A copy of Crozier was included in the IDS previously filed for this application. The examiner cited the following section of Crozier as disclosing "storing data ... that associates a plurality of code conversion rules ... with a field defined by an application." (Office Action, Section 3)

The MAPPING database will be used during the translation process to determine where data from each field of the source application record is to be stored in the target application record. Each record of the MAPPING database describes all or part of the mapping of a single field of a handheld application's data file. In the case where a single field in the source database is to be mapped to multiple fields in the target database, multiple records will appear in the MAPPING database for that target field, with the "multiple field flag" set to TRUE. Because the mappings in the MAPPINGS database are bi-directional (i.e., the mappings are applicable both for handheld computer to desktop computer, and desktop computer to handheld computer), the appearance of multiple records in the MAPPING database with the "multiple field flag" can cause multiple fields from a

source database to be combined in a single field in a target database. (col. lines 17 – 35)

In Crozier, a field may be associated with a plurality of records to map the field. However, each record in the plurality maps a single field to another field. Thus, when a value for a single field is converted into a plurality of values for a plurality of fields, each rule of the plurality is applied to the value. New Claim 23, on the other hand, uses just one conversion rule to convert an application code into multiple other codes. This feature is not disclosed or suggested in any way by Crozier.

In Crozier, when converting a value for the field to multiple other values, the whole plurality associated with the field is applied. There is no selection from the plurality of records made for the purpose of determining which of them to apply. New Claim 23, on the other hand, uses just one conversion rule to convert an application code for a single field into multiple other

codes. Furthermore, the conversion rule must be selected from a plurality of conversion rules, a plurality that contains at least one rule that is not applied to convert the application code. This feature is not disclosed or suggested in any way by Crozier.

For these reasons, the claims presented by this amendment are patentable.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



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Marcel K. Bingham
Reg. No. 42,327

1600 Willow Street
San Jose, CA 95125
Telephone No.: (408) 414-1080 ext.206
Facsimile No.: (408) 414-1076

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Amend, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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